



**Commission On
Human Rights**

New York City Commission on Human Rights

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New York City Commission on Human Rights Orders Bronx Landlords to Pay Over \$150,000 for National Origin Discrimination in Housing

Commission finds landlords engaged in multi-year campaign of harassment against tenant and ordered damages, penalties, and affirmative relief to provide redress and prevent future harm.

NEW YORK, NY — The New York City Commission on Human Rights has ordered Bronx landlords that own multiple buildings to pay more than \$150,000 for discriminating against a tenant from Puerto Rico and her family based on national origin. The decision comes after an investigation and Administrative trial in [*Commission on Human Rights ex rel. Rosa Colon v. Coraleta Lewis and William Lewis*](#), finding that Respondents violated the New York City Human Rights Law.

The Commission found that landlords harassed the tenant for nearly five years because of her heritage, including verbal abuse, threatening and aggressive behavior, and other actions targeting her and her family, ultimately evicting her.

"As a Puerto Rican New Yorker, I understand how painful harassment and discrimination can be for communities. This family endured years of harassment simply because of who they are. Housing is more than just a place to live – it's where children grow up, families gather, and memories are made. The Commission exists to hold landlords accountable and ensure that all New Yorkers can live with dignity," **said Annabel Palma, Commissioner and Chair of the NYC Commission on Human Rights.**

As a result of this Decision and Order, the Commission directed the Respondent to:

- **Pay \$50,000 in emotional distress damages** to the Complainant
- **Reimburse Complaint \$8927.50 for out-of-pocket expenses**, plus predetermination interest
- **Pay a \$100,000 civil penalty** to the City of New York
- **Cease and desist** their unlawful discriminatory conduct
- **Create a written anti-discrimination policy, complete anti-discrimination training and submit to a Commission audit**
- **Post the Commission's Fair Housing Poster** in all buildings where they rent to members of the public

Anyone in New York City who feels they have experienced or witnessed discrimination can reach out to the Commission by calling 212-416-0197, [filling out the online form](#), or visiting one of the Commission's offices.

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The New York City Commission on Human Rights is the agency responsible for enforcing the NYC Human Rights Law, one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. The Commission works to promote equality and combat discrimination in New York City through law enforcement, community relations, and public education.